

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01174 231303Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 ARA-14 EUR-12
H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /160 W
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R 231227Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8916
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 1174

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH IN US
SUBJECT: N.C. MENON ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

1. WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT N.C. MENON COMPLAINS
IN THE JNUARY 21 "HINDUSTAN TIMES" THAT THE NUCLEAR
EXPORTGUIDELINES RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE LONDON
NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP REPRESENT AN "INSIDIOUS THREAT" TO
THE NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE
CLUB, SUCH AS INDIA, BRAZIL AND PAKISTAN. NOTING THAT NOW,
IF ONE SUPPLIER SUSPENDS NUCLEAR SUPPLIES TO A COUNTRY AS A
RESULT OF A DISPUTE NONE OF THE OTHER SUPPLIERS WILL FIND THE
VOID, HE WARNS THAT "THE UNITED STATES CAN THEORETICALLY
REFUSE SUPPLY OF, SAY, A DOZEN SCREWS TO TIGHTEN THE FUEL RODS
AT TARAPUR, AND THEREBY SUCCESSFULLY BRING ABOUT A WORLDWIDE
SUPPLY BOYCOTT OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL TO INDIA."
CONSEQUENTLY, HE BELIEVES THAT INFCEP HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A
"MERE FARCE."

2. MENON STATES THAT THE INDO-US NUCLEAR DISAGREEMENT
IS NOT A "MINOR STORM IN A FRIENDLY CUP OF TEA" AS SOME
"NAIVE" OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND DELHISTILL BELIEVE.
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MOREOVER, HE TAKES UMBRAGE AT THE "AGGRESSIVELY ANTAGONISTIC
STANCE" OF THE US PRESS TOWARD INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY,
CITING THE "WASHINGTON POST'S" ACCUSATION THAT INDIA
"CHEATED" ITS WAY INTO THE NUCLEAR CLUB BY DIVERTING
FOREIGN SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AS REACHING
"NEW DEPTHS OF EDITORIAL VITUPERATION." HE ATTEMPTS
(UNCONVINCINGLY) TO REFUTE THE CHARGE AND, TURNING TO THE

OFFENSIVE, CONTRASTS SEN. RIBICOFF'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY WITH HIS ADVOCACY OF
US NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, WHICH WON'T EVEN LET
HIM VISIT ITS DAMONA FACILITY.

3. MENON CONCLUDES THAT "PRUDENCE WOULD SEEM TO DICTATE
FULL SPEED AHEAD ON DEVELOPING A THORIUM TECHNOLOGY" TO
END AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE INDIA'S DEPENDENCE ON
"UNCERTAIN AND CAPRICIOUS EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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